

If you can handle rap with a British accent, check out **Stereo MC's** who open for **Jesus Jones** Saturday at the Tower. On their new album *Connected*, (Gee Street/Island) they use real musicians (and a couple of well-placed samples) and sing as much as they rap. It's obvious these "raps" are written, and more than a little thought went into them. Covering the usual topics of racism and political and societal oppression, many of their songs point towards inner thought and spiritual breakthrough and their music breaks through the usual studio big-drum synthesized funk to a listenable blend of many musical forms with touches of jazz heightened by the backing vocals of Cath Coffey Verona Davis and Andrea Groves.

Stereo MC's with Jesus Jones; Sat., April 24 at 8 p.m. at the Tower Theater, 69th and Ludlow Sts., Upper Darby, \$18.50, 336-2000.

--Peter Brown